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# A TREE GROWS IN CAPEAST (We Hope)

District workmen plant a tree on Sixth St. NE, unhindered by remains of December snow.

Hopefully, come spring, this tree and several hundred like it will be providing new shade for area streets.

The trees are part of a \$22,000 replanting project being carried out by the District.

Streets affected include 6th, 14th and 15th.

Being planted are Norway maples, red maples and red oaks.

For more details on this story, please turn to page three.

# CAPITOL EAST GAZETTE

Serving Near Northeast & Near Southeast Washington

Vol.1 Nr.6      January, 1967      10 Cents

# Local Poverty Programs Wait for Axe to Fall

## UPO Seeking the Opinions of Advisory Councils

It was a grim holiday season for those involved in the local anti-poverty program.

Near NE and Near SE community workers went about their tasks still not knowing when and how scheduled heavy fund cuts would hit their activities.

As we went to press, Friendship House, along with other community centers around the city, had just received a lengthy memorandum from James G. Banks, director of the United Planning Organization, requesting neighborhood advisory councils to submit by January 5th their suggestions for handling the cutback problem. Once the recommendations are received, they will be turned over to the Metropolitan Citizens Advisory Council and UPO's board of trustees for a final decision due late this month or early in February.

The UPO memo stated three main courses of action possible in view of the nationwide reductions in anti-poverty funds available to community action programs:

--Programs could be carried out at their present levels until the money runs out around the end of April. This course is favored by some UPO staffers and many of the more militant protesters against the cuts. The Office of Economic Opportunity, however, has indicated that it would not permit it.

--The local programs could be dropped entirely, based on the theory that no program was better than half a program.

--Selective cuts could be made in the programs to carry out OEO's mandate that UPO reduce its annual spending in Washington from \$9.1 million to \$4.6 million.

The Banks memo described in some detail how such selective cutting might be carried out. In essence, it would mean a 15% reduction in the funds available for most of the community action programs carried out in Near NE and Near SE, such as community organizations,

credit unions, consumer action, neighborhood housing assistance and neighborhood services. Larger cuts would be made in the downtown staff operations of UPO and in selected programs not directly related to the community level action activities. Under the plan, local directors would have leeway to cut some programs more than others, rather than reduce them all by a flat 15%. The Banks proposal would tend to minimize the effect of the fund cuts on programs such as those carried out by Friendship House in SE and the Community Improvement Corporation in NE.

During the past month, local community leaders have joined in numerous protests against the cuts. In Near SE, poverty workers rounded up 1500 letters to the White House opposing the slashes. A number of persons connected with the Capitol East poverty programs have been working actively with the Underground, a militant group campaigning strongly for an unreduced anti-poverty effort. In Near NE, according to Clarence Wildridge, chairman of the Near NE Citizens Advisory Council, hundred of petitions were being circulated. Wildridge told the Gazette:

"The President and Congress should honor their promises to the poor people."

And he added, "There should never have been a cut. There should be an expansion of the program."

News of the cutbacks has brought gloom to local poverty workers. Individual reactions have ranged from anger to resignation.

In the confusing days following the announcement of the pending reduction, tempers flared at public meetings and behind closed doors. One of the most dramatic sessions occurred at a meeting at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, called by Friendship House to protest the cuts.

Several hundred persons were present, including such civil rights leaders as Julius Hobson of ACT and Channing Phillips of the Coalition of Conscience. The walls of the basement meeting room were plastered with signs. One read:

GOD SAVE THE POOR;  
CONGRESS WON'T

Bob Adams, director of Friendship

### East of the Dome

Some \$900,000 was spent last fiscal year by the District to landscape and upgrade public areas in Capitol East; and the figure this year may top \$1 million.

Projects have included landscape studies of thirteen schools, reseeding and improving the land around D. C. General Hospital, upgrading the looks of six housing projects, and sprucing up a number of squares and triangles in the area.

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson is reported to have made several tours of the Capitol East area recently. She has taken a special interest in public landscape projects in this region.

A source in the National Capital Transportation Agency tells us that there is no chance for a subway line along H St. NE. A Near NE committee has been pushing for such a route, but the agency feels that a subway on H St. would raise land values and force many of the stores there out of business.

Despite the cutback in poverty funds, the new Teen Mobilization Center, 1308 Penna. SE, is not in trouble. It gets its money from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and from the Department of Labor.

The teenagers at the center are organizing a Neighborhood Advisory Council for teens, patterned on the adult NAC in the area. The center is also setting up a teen employment agency.

A number of the teens connected with the center have been active in the fight against slashes in poverty money. One of them, Eugene Jenkins, testified before a Senate committee recently. He told the senators, "If it hadn't been for this job (at the teen center), I would be in jail."

Jane Hardin, at Community Laundries, reports that the legal assistance program there is working out extremely well. Some 60 law students are helping to man a legal assistance desk at the community center connected with the laundry.



The Gazette

The Capitol East Gazette is published each month for the benefit of Washingtonians living in Capitol East. The Gazette may be received by mail for \$2 a year. Or, if you live in Washington postal zones 2 or 3, you may subscribe to the Idler Magazine at \$3 a year and get the Gazette free.

All advertising and news copy must be received by the 23rd of the month to be published in the next issue of the Gazette.

Editor: sam smith  
Editor's Wife: Kathy Smith  
Associate Editor: Erbin Crowell  
Advertising Manager: Edwin L. Haynes  
Correspondence, circulation and coffee: Sally Crowell

The Gazette  
413 6th St. NE  
Washington, D. C. 20002  
546-9662

HOBSON TALKS ON SCHOOL SUIT

Julius Hobson will discuss his controversial suit against the District's school system at 8 pm, Friday, January 6, at Friendship House, 619 D SE.

Hobson, who is leader of the civil rights group ACT, will address a membership meeting of the School Action Council for Capitol East. A representative of the Corporation Counsel's office has been asked to present the city's side of case.

The meeting is being held in preparation for SACCE's filing of a friend of the court brief on January 20. SACCE members are reading and condensing the 7,000 pages of testimony already presented in the suit, prior to writing their brief.

Hobson will discuss issues such as whether a community is obligated to provide integrated schools if housing segregation exists and whether a community is obligated to upgrade substandard school facilities.

In other SACCE action, a questionnaire will be sent to all public school principals in the area to obtain their observations and recommendations about their schools. Factual data not available from the Board of Education will also be sought.

The SACCE personnel subcommittee is collecting affidavits from people who have suffered delays and discouragements after applying for teaching positions in the D. C. public schools. Anyone who has had such an experience, is requested to contact Mrs. Mary Bremier, 544-6193.

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PRECINCTS 5 AND 9 APPEAR DOOMED

Capitol East will probably lose its two police precinct stations--the 5th and the 9th--if the planned citywide consolidation of police activities into six districts is carried out. The consolidation was proposed in a study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and is currently being reviewed by Metropolitan police officials.

The IACP report proposed that present precinct stations be used in the consolidation, but the 5th and the 9th were not among those mentioned. Inspector Jerry V. Wilson, director of the department's planning and development division, told the Gazette that neither station was large enough to house the staffs of the expanded districts. Prior to the report, both stationhouses had been scheduled for replacement. A new 9th Precinct stationhouse was in last year's budget but was rejected by Congress.

Wilson indicated that in the long run Capitol East probably would be the site of a district headquarters, "busy as that area is." Asked what effect the proposed consolidation would have on community-police relations, Wilson said this was a major problem which still has to be resolved. Some critics of the plan have complained that it would place police

authorities at too great a distance from the communities they serve.

Under the IACP plan, the closest stations to Capitol East would be the present 1st Precinct, 300 Indiana Ave. NW; the 4th, 415 4th SW; and the 14th, at 4135 Benning Rd. NE.

According to the IACP, reducing the number of precincts would increase the efficiency of police operations in Washington. "The number of existing precincts is grossly excessive as determined by modern police standards," the report said. "Decentralization into 14 precincts results in an excessive drain on the department's resources and prevents the most efficient use of its available manpower."

VISTA VIEW DIM HERE

The VISTA program in Capitol East is running into trouble. Neither the domestic peace corps volunteers working here nor the anti-poverty professionals with whom they operate seem very happy with the way things have developed.

Ironically, despite the general dissatisfaction, the VISTA program is not

one of those affected by poverty fund cut-backs.

The VISTAs blame red tape, bureaucracy and too many restrictions at Friendship House, the agency supervising the program here.

Some of the professionals, however, say that the VISTAs were inadequately trained and not prepared for the job they were expected to do in Capitol East. "They think they're a combination of Saul Alinsky and Jesus Christ," said one professional.

The VISTAs have been helping in day care programs, community organization and employment assistance.

They appear uncertain as to the role they are meant to fill here and complain that sometimes they are treated like professionals and sometimes like flunkies. Some feel that Friendship House has not given them enough freedom of action.

But one professional poverty worker who has had VISTAs helping him says that when he gave them free rein, they didn't show up for work. "They want to save the world," he said, "but they don't want to pound the pavement."

Several of the VISTA volunteers told the Gazette that they did not think the program as presently constituted was worth refunding. "I'd just forget it," said one.

Credit Union Plans Surprise for Jan. Meeting

The Friendship House Community Credit Union is promising its members a surprise announcement at its annual meeting, January 24, at Friendship House, 619 D SE. There are some indications that the credit union will announce a dividend for depositors.

Refreshments will be served starting at 730 pm. The meeting will begin at 8 pm. Among those planning the session are Bill Penn, Warren Morris, Dorothy Locke, Beverly Baumgart, Thomas G. Smith, Willie Dennis, Ruth Melby, Betty Davis, Doctor McKnight and Hy Cohen.

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Emporium	305 Pa. SE	544-5400
Georgetown Coffee House	634 Pa. SE	LI 7-4144



# CAPEAST FINALLY GETS NEW TREES

Capitol East is finally getting some new trees. \$22,000 worth, according to Jerry Lowe of the District's Tree and Landscaping Division.

Funds for the planting along Near NE and Near SE streets comes from a Housing and Urban Development Department grant. There are also two other contracts that will bring additional trees to the area.

The trees, costing about \$100 apiece, include 30 Norway maples, 51 red maples and 133 red oaks. Here's a breakdown by streets:

6th NE between E. Capitol and K: 34 trees.

15th NE between E. Capitol and Benning Rd.: 30 trees.

14th NE between E. Capitol and Florida Ave.: 46 trees.

6th SE between E. Capitol and H: 10 trees.

14th SE between E. Capitol and L: 38 trees.

15th SE between E. Capitol and Ives Place: 19 trees.

The trees will be protected by what Lowe calls "little green cages." Vandalism is always a problem with new trees

as are cars that back into the trunks and scrape or break them. "We used to have trouble with horses nipping at the trees," Lowe told us, "but that problem's gone now."

Incidentally, the tree division is a good source of free firewood. Persons who call can be placed on a list and when tree removal takes place in their neighborhood, the wood is saved for them. The city finds that this system is cheaper than toting the wood to the city dump.

## Anacostia Tour Set for Jan. 7

There will be a walking tour of the Anacostia waterfront early in the morning of January 7, sponsored by the Emergency Recreation Council. The organizers of the tour hope the walk will acquaint community leaders and government officials with the recreational potential of the Anacostia riverbank. The ERC has made development of the Anacostia open space one of its major goals.

Among those being invited to participate in the walk are representatives of the National Capital Planning Commission, which has also placed a high priority on the area; the White House Beautification Project; National Capital Parks; and the Highway Department.

The tour will begin at Friendship House at 7 am. Participants will be transported by car to the Anacostia riverbank, returning to Friendship House in time for a 830 am breakfast and panel discussion. In case of bad weather, ERC has received permission to drive in caravan through the area.

Chairman of the walk is Eileen Rogers (544-3297)

Although the Anacostia River is now a heavily polluted stream and although its Capitol East shore is presently occupied by barren land, commercial facilities and the Navy Yard, a number of local leaders feel it could be turned into a large and attractive recreational area.

In other ERC action, the group will file a motion to enter a suit which questions the right of the District to take parkland for highway construction. The suit was filed early in December by several property owners and citizen groups around the city, including the Committee of 100 for the Federal City. It seeks injunctions against construction of the East leg of the SE expressway from Barney Circle to Benning Road and other sections of the freeway system.

Defendants in the suit are the D. C. Commissioners, the head of the D. C. Highway Department and the National Capital Planning Commission.

Austin Frum, a Capitol East lawyer, will file the motion to intervene.

## New Coffee House Open Weekends

A new coffee house has opened in the basement of the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 4th and Independence SE.

Called Through the Gate, the coffee house features folk singing, poetry readings and drama. It is open Friday and Saturday nights and is under the direction of Basil Das, a Howard graduate student.

Our correspondent who specializes in such things reports that Through the Gate is well worth a visit.

## POVERTY CONT'D....

House, told the meeting he felt that the poverty program was "on the skids." During his generally pessimistic discussion, Adams—who chaired the session—stated that he has told his staff workers to look for other jobs.

Adams was sharply rebuked by the Rev. Phillip Newell for his resigned attitude towards the problem. Newell urged that the meeting participants demand that UPO continue its programs at their current levels. And if that didn't work, he went on, then local citizens should block all the streets to the Capitol for five days and call on people from other states to join in the protest.

As person after person demanded recognition, the meeting began to get out of hand, leading one poverty worker, Pete Green, to comment, "You may want to set around and jive, but I'm not going to."

Another person at the meeting noted that if the poverty funds were restored across the nation by taking money out of the space program, it would delay landing a man on the moon by 44 1/2 working days.

Julius Hobson made a plea for his plan for massive bankruptcy proceedings by the poor.

And Deana Wheeler called for a protest march the following day.

Adams, still chairing the meeting, attempted to maintain order but the crowd became increasingly restive. Some of those present wanted to put forth their own idea of the solution to the problem, others wanted to vote and still others wanted to break the meeting into workshops for further discussions.

Pete Green rose again and told the crowd:

"We need a-c-t-i-o-n! We don't need jiving."

About this time, poverty worker Pharnel Longus leaped to the front of the room and tried to take control of the meeting from Adams. But he had not said more than a few words when a man nearby stood up and angrily demanded, "What makes you think you're a leader?"

At this moment, the tall form of Channing Phillips stepped forward and restored a semblance of order to the meeting.

Later, an announcement was made that all the militants in the crowd were invited to leave the meeting for a rump session at the home of Sherwood Ross, in Near SE.

## THE GAZETTE GUIDE: NUMBER 2

(Last month the Gazette published a comprehensive guide to community services in the Capitol East area. This month we publish the first in a series of changes, in order to keep the guide up to date. Just clip the information below and attach to your copy of the guide, or write in the corrections. If you did not receive a copy of the guide, you may obtain one by sending 10¢ in stamp or coin to the Gazette, 413 6th St. NE, Washington, D. C. 20002).

### Additions

The Neighborhood Health Clinic at 261 17th St. SE gives free medical examinations every afternoon M-F and on W until 9 pm. Exams are by appointment only which can be made by calling 547-1181.

### Corrections

### FOOD AND CLOTHING

Emergency Food and Clothing Center, 1418 Penna. Ave. SE. 9am-noon, 3pm-6pm daily; and noon-3pm Sa. 547-8880.

It was at this meeting, in Ross's living room, that the Underground was formed --the group that has been most vocal in its opposition to the poverty fund cuts.

The events of that evening indicate the intensity of feeling that has developed over this issue. While some of those involved have given up on the poverty program, others feel that, if protests are strong enough, Congress will grant additional money. The question goes beyond the matter of how UPO handles its budgetary problem to whether Congress can be made to change its mind about the poverty program.

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1. Write out the news items, make sure the following points are covered:
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3. Our deadline is the 23rd of the month prior to the month of issue.
4. We can use photos providing they are clear and are sent with a complete description of the subject matter including identification of persons in the picture. Photos can not be returned.



# GODING LOOKS GOOD ON RECENT VISIT

"Now we are going to climb the ladder," the teacher said.

"What shall we put at the top of the ladder? Let's have a Veteran's Day party." She chalked a ladder on the board with rungs about four feet wide. At the top she drew a stick figure holding a flag and beside it sketched as many chairs as there were children about her.

"We are going to have a party, but before we get to the party we must climb the ladder."

Over each rung she now wrote three words, such as "Red-See-You" or "red Look-You."

The game began. The children tried to climb the ladder by reading the series of words, starting at the bottom rung and working up.

Kathy and I had dropped over to the Goding School, 9th and F NE, for a morning-long open house and had found the ladder-climbers in the first room we visited. We sat in the back of the class trying to look as inconspicuous as two adults can in a room of first-graders and watched as the children engaged in what educators like to call "learning language skills."

Not all the children. Some were assigned to work in their coloring books. And two girls directly in front of us amused themselves by disputing the question of whose elbow belonged on whose desk.

Goding has about 1000 children in its classes. That's a few more than it is supposed to have. It is called a demonstration school. Teachers from all over the city attend sessions there, observing the classroom techniques of the Goding staff, which is recruited from the best of the District school system.

## Announcement

The Capitol East Gazette is pleased to announce the appointment of an advertising manager:

MR. EDWIN L. HAYNES

Mr. Haynes is available to assist you with your advertising problems. He will be glad to call on you. He may be reached through our office: 546-9662

Inside, the school is immaculate. The bulletin boards are almost oppressively neat. On one was written: "Generic Word: Go." Below it was the legend: "Specific Words:" and a list of about 20 words that expressed the idea of "go." On another board was the following list, under the heading of "November Plans:"

- "1. Save for our trip.
- "2. Learn new poems and songs.
- "3. Prove experiments in science, electricity and magnetism.
- "4. Complete physical fitness.
- "5. Study the why of settling.
- "6. Improve our work habits and handwriting.
- "7. Work harder in French.
- "8. Continue to work on facts.
- "9. We must improve our compositions and outlines."

November appeared to be an ambitious month at Goding. I suspected that some of the items would be carried over to December. Like Number 8: "Continue to work on facts."

Much of a student's time at Goding is spent working on facts. Some of the facts are easy, such as the name of the first man to sail around the world, but others are hard to find and hard to hold, like why some people count in a num-

ber system based on ten and others in a number system based on two.

The teachers are good at making these facts--the hard ones and the easy ones--come alive. They are conscious that they are onstage performing before a highly critical audience of children who demand answers, entertainment and



reasons for the things around them. There are lots of tricks to being a good teacher. When to turn your back on the kid at the blackboard to help take off the pressure. When to express surprise. Which student to call upon. How to get the boy whose mind has drifted off down 9th St. back in the classroom. When to change the subject matter. When to play a game to arouse flagging interest. The Goding staff is good at all of this and the classes move at a vigorous clip.

"The teachers change subject matter often," Leroy Dillard, the school's principal said when he caught up with us in a fourth-grade class. He reminded us of that saying that the mind can only absorb what the seat can endure.

Dillard led us into several other classrooms. In one class--all boys--one of two men teachers at the school was discussing geography. "These boys were not doing so well," Dillard explained. Now that he has put them together with a male instructor there has been a marked improvement.

Goding does not have a track system, but Dillard does use what he calls "compatible working groups," largely based upon reading ability. There are, for example, four levels of sixth grade. At the end of a school year, the teachers of two successive grades get together and decide who shall be in which group the following term. Students are occasionally shifted during the school year.

Unlike the track system in the city's high schools, Goding does not have to check with "downtown" before placing students and the teachers appear to have considerable say in the grouping.

The curriculum at Goding is not timid. Students are taught French in 3rd through 6th grades. They learn new math and old math. One class we visited was studying techniques of soil conservation, and casually discussing such terms as "contour plowing."

Class work is backed up by a large number of field trips including such unusual jaunts as a topographical survey of Washington during which the various land formations of the area are discussed.

Goding is also fortunate among area schools in having a library of 4000 books and a librarian. Dillard believes that a library of 10,000 books would be ideal.

"But good teachers; that's the important thing," he told us.

Goding has been treated well by the District school system. It clearly benefits from being a demonstration school. Its teachers are high in quality and ex-

perience. Several of them have gone on to become principals of other schools. The recent Pucinski report on the District schools noted that only three per cent of Goding's teachers have less than four years' teaching background.

Per pupil expenditure, however, is below that of many schools in Capitol East and below the average for schools in neighborhoods of the same income level.

When Goding opened in 1959, its students scored more than a year below the city norm on standard tests. Now they score at or above the norm.

Good teachers, an imaginative and flexible administration and the availability of reading material have all contributed to the change. During our visit to Goding, we found nothing radical. The District school system often tries to extricate itself from its self-made bureaucratic swamp by grabbing at some new educational fad. Fads were hard to find at Goding. Despite the new look of the place, it seemed almost old fashioned. No rigid track system, no "Goding Plan" to write books about, no team teaching, no ungraded classes. This is not to say that there were no new ideas. There are, for example, five teachers' aides at Goding and Dillard would like more.

But Dillard and his teachers obviously do not look for the salvation of the District's schools to be delivered upon the wings of some facile theory. They appear to be pragmatists who rely heavily upon the steady application of clear and imaginative instruction, good discipline and a sympathetic approach towards their charges.

Goding is a demonstration school. But it should be a typical school for there is nothing in its operation that is beyond the means of Congress and the school system to provide to all the elementary in the city.

As we descended the staircase to depart, we fed into a line of students going to recess.

"Did you see that hook I threw?" Dillard asked one of the boys.

"Yeah, Mr. Dillard. I saw it."

The Goding principal turned to us and said, "They didn't think I could throw one."

As we left, I wondered how many of the school system's planners and administrators downtown could. Or cared.

--sam smith

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